



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2015

Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii

Summary of the dry season (May through September 2015)

- Statewide: Most locations had near to above average rainfall.
 - Drought completely eliminated from the U.S. Drought Monitor map.
 - Hawaii is drought free for the first time since April 15, 2008.
- Wettest dry season in the last 30 years.
 - 2014 dry season was the wettest in 30 years and this year easily beat it.
 - Wettest August and September on record at many locations.
 - Some monthly totals more than doubled the previous records.
- Above average tropical cyclone activity near Hawaii and above average sea surface temperatures have helped increase rainfall.
 - Tropical cyclones bring associated rain bands over the islands and draw up enhanced moisture from the deep tropics.
 - Warm ocean temperatures nearby provide additional moisture for rainfall production.

Outlook for the wet season (October 2015 through April 2016)

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC): El Nino is here and will continue.
 - Expected to remain in place through spring 2016.
 - Strongest El Nino since the 1997-1998 event and may end up being the strongest in over 50 years.
- Probabilities favor below average rainfall through spring 2016.
 - Significantly below average totals, especially from December through April. See El Nino rainfall links.
 - Statewide impact
 - Many areas may see less than 50 percent of average rainfall.
- Drought development starting in late 2015 and expected to worsen during early 2016.
 - Summer rainfall has helped delay some impacts.
 - Sectors sensitive to short term rainfall deficits may start seeing initial effects by the end of 2015.
 - Agriculture: Pasture degradation
 - Water supply: Catchment systems will run low.
 - Brush fires: Earlier start to the 2016 fire season.
 - **Widespread moderate drought (D1 category on U.S. Drought Monitor map) with embedded areas of severe drought (D2 category) expected by the end of April.**
 - **Isolated extreme drought (D3 category) possible.**



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Wet Season Rainfall Outlook for the State of Hawaii - cont'd

Wet season preparedness reminders

- **Much fewer heavy rain events expected in the 2015 – 2016 wet season but we should still be prepared if an isolated event occurs.**
- Do not drive on roads with fast-flowing water.
 - Just 2 feet of fast-flowing water can sweep most vehicles off a road
 - Road may also be severely undercut.
- Do not walk across flooded streams.
 - Applies even if you're stranded. Streams in Hawaii generally recede quickly.
- Clean gutters and drainage ditches.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, identify your evacuation routes ahead of time.
- Stay informed of changing conditions by monitoring forecasts via the media, NOAA Weather Radio, and the Internet.
 - Avoid dry weather complacency
 - Rainfall with thunder and lightning may hit hard but be very brief
 - Move indoors during a thunderstorm
 - Fast-moving systems may bring strong winds without much rain
 - Higher probability of large surf events

On the Web:

Recent El Nino Wet Season Rainfall in Hawaii: <http://arcg.is/1EpyyPy>

Hawaii Rainfall: January-Average vs. January-Strong El Nino: <http://arcg.is/1PCUeP8>

NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu HI: <http://www.weather.gov/hawaii/>

NOAA Weather Ready Nation: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

NOAA Climate Prediction Center: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

U.S. Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>